

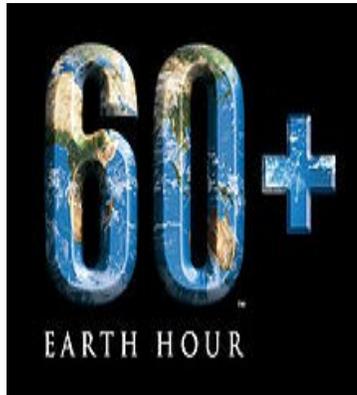
Burrell Ellis, CEO



DeKalb County Government
2009 Bronze Certification

Volume 2, Issue 1

DeKalb County, Georgia Greenest Urban County in America



EARTH HOUR

Uniting People to Protect the Planet

March 2013

What better way to honor the county's "Lights Out/Power Down" Policy than to celebrate this year's EARTH HOUR? Recognized as a worldwide event organized by the World Wildlife Fund, Earth Hour was started in 2007 in Sydney, Australia and is now in its sixth year. Help show your concern for life on Earth by turning off your lights on Saturday, March 23 from 8:30 p.m.—9:30 p.m. Better yet, turn off your work computer, monitor, and lights prior to leaving work Friday, March 22. Help the county save money, help give the planet a little break and make EARTH HOUR a part of you life everyday.

County Challenge:

Turn off your computer and lights

FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 2013



Brownfield/ Greyfield Redevelopment

Brownfields and greyfields are sites that are abandoned or underused industrial and commercial facilities available for re-use. Expansion or redevelopment of such a facility may be complicated by real or perceived environmental contaminations. However, these types of property are perfect for redevelopment. Whether it's an abandoned landfill site or an abandoned big box center that needs new life, brownfield and greyfield development revitalizes areas that otherwise go overlooked.

The environmental benefits to restoring brownfields and greyfields have a tremendous effect on human health as well as economic benefits of creating new opportunities for business and greenspace within communities. To date, the county has redeveloped a brownfield site at the Sanitation Division's Central Transfer Station from what was once an old landfill. And the county's Fleet Maintenance Division has a new home in a previously abandoned big box greyfield on Memorial Drive.

The county's Natural Resources Management Office recently received a Limitation of Liability under the Georgia Brownfields Program to mitigate 4.7 acres of property in DeKalb. In 2012, the Office of Economic Development received a similar grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for \$900,000 to issue loans and sub-grants to clean up brownfield sites, encourage redevelopment, create jobs, and most importantly, protect human health and the environment.

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Endangered Plants at Davidson-Arabia Mountain: Black-spore Quillwort and Pool Sprite

DeKalb County's Natural Resources Management Office received a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, a Bureau in the Department of Interior, for habitat restoration at Davidson-Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve in DeKalb County, Georgia. The project will focus on increasing the plant populations of the Black-spore Quillwort and Pool Sprite, while improving the populations resiliency and potential for recovery.

The Black-spore Quillwort and Pool Sprite were listed as threatened and endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1988. Both species have been found on Arabia Mountain's granite outcrops. Presently, there are five populations of Black-spore Quillwort in the State of Georgia; one population being located on Arabia Mountain within six pools on its granite outcrop. Due to the continued destruction of the Black-spore Quillwort's habitat, the species now only survives in nine locations around the world.

Pool Sprite is endemic to shallow, rock-rimmed, flat-bottomed solution pools on granite outcrop communities. Comprehensive surveys have been conducted throughout the species' range and presently 40 sites of pool sprites have been identified. One or two extensive populations, consisting of 15 to 20 pools, are located on Arabia Mountain.

Quarrying continues to destroy granite outcrops and plant populations of Black-spore Quillwort and Pool Sprite. Additional threats to the species include littering, trash dumping, fire building, vandalism and off-road vehicles. These species are vulnerable due to their limited amount of potential habitat and specialized microhabitats that they require. However, the protected habitat at Davidson-Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve is vital for the recovery of the Black-spore Quillwort and Pool Sprite.

For more information on Davidson-Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve and how to participate in an interpretive hike, please contact park ranger Robby Astrove at rlastrove@dekalbcountyga.gov.

DeKalb's GREEN Focus Inspiring a Greener Future TODAY



Did you know the State of Georgia provides habitat for 62 species of plants and animals protected under the federal Endangered Species Act?

DeKalb County's newest website, DeKalb's Green Focus, launched earlier this month highlighting the county's sustainable programs that promote conservation, reduce environmental impact, grow the green economy and improve the quality of life for both its residents and employees. Highlighted below are the areas the website covers, earning the reputation for being the **Greenest Urban County in America**.

- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
- Water
- Energy
- Greenspace and Natural Resources
- Healthy Communities
- Alternative Transportation
- Land Use and Development